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Land allocation issues delay EV adoption in Telangana **page 5**

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Kejriwal skips 7th ED summons **page 7**

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30 Hamas men killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza **page 9**



Mini-box cricket at Metros

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Maryam CM of Punjab province

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India beat Eng; win Test series

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ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Nani packs a punch

Post the immense success of his last release Hi Nanna

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 140
Retail live	Rs. 162
With skin	Rs. 235
Skiless	Rs. 267
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 68

Blossoms of innocence



PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY: Specially-abled children during a day-long 'Purple Fest' organised at Amrit Udyan, Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Monday. — Photo: ANI

LPG scheme: 40 lakh consumers to benefit

Chief Minister to launch initiative today

PS DILEEP
Hyderabad

Nearly 40 lakh consumers in Telangana are eligible to obtain LPG cylinders at the subsidised price of Rs 500 under the Maha Lakshmi scheme. While beneficiaries are mandated to have ration cards, only a limited number of cylinders will be supplied to each consumer based on their previous consumption. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will launch the initiative along with the Gruha Jyothi scheme for a free power supply of 200 units to domestic consumers on Tuesday.

As per the guidelines issued, the beneficiaries must have both a ration card and also an LPG connection. Eligible individuals should have already submitted their Praja Palana application. There are 1.25 crore LPG connections against over 90 lakh ration cards in Telangana. The Civil Supplies Department initially estimated the number of total beneficiaries to be around 65 lakh. But now, fresh estimates have pegged the number at nearly 40 lakh. Interestingly, this includes around 11.58 lakh beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana scheme where the Centre provides a subsidy of Rs 340 per LPG cylinder.

Further, the consumers should pay the entire amount of around Rs 955 upfront. Of this, the subsidy amount of Rs 40 from the Central government and another Rs 415 from the

Take note

- Ration cards must to avail scheme
- Only limited number of cylinders will be supplied to each consumer
- It will be based on their previous consumption
- Consumers should pay entire amount of around **Rs 955 upfront**
- Of this, subsidy amount will be reimbursed into consumers' bank accounts
- Eligible individuals should have already submitted Praja Palana application
- Estimated **23 lakh LPG** cylinders per month required for scheme

LPG connections **1.25 cr**

Ration cards: **90 lakh**

— OFFICIAL, Civil Supplies Department

“If the consumers purchased an average of five cylinders per annum in the last three years, s/he will be eligible to receive five subsidised cylinders. Similarly, those who consumed eight or nine cylinders will be able to receive an equal number of cylinders”

State government will be reimbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the bank accounts of the consumers. For beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana, the State government will reimburse only the excess amount above the Rs 340 subsidy from the Centre and the Rs 500 paid by consumers.

To prevent misuse of the scheme, the Civil Supplies Department has mapped all the beneficiaries and decided to restrict the annual number of LPG cylinders supplied under the scheme to the average number of cylinders procured by the customer in the last three years. “If the consumers

purchased an average of five cylinders per annum in the last three years, S/he will be eligible to receive five subsidised cylinders. Similarly, those who consumed eight or nine cylinders will be able to receive an equal number of cylinders,” a top official of the Civil Supplies department told ‘Telangana Today’.

An estimated 23 lakh LPG cylinders per month are required for the implementation of the scheme. Accordingly, the State government on Saturday released Rs 80 crore towards subsidy reimbursement which will be released to the oil companies which in turn transfer the amount to the beneficiaries.

Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas dies at 72

MUMBAI

Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, whose velvet smooth voice gave expression to the many colours of love, longing and heartache in songs such as ‘Chitthi Aye Hai’ and ‘Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein’, died here on Monday after a prolonged illness. He was 72.

Udhas, who also made a mark as a playback singer in many Hindi films.



(REPORT PAGE 12)

‘Many Indians discharged from Russia’

MEA says actively pursuing with Russian army

PTI
NEW DELHI

Several Indians, who worked as support staff to the Russian army, were ‘discharged’ following India’s demand, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday. It said India remains committed, as a matter of “top priority”, to actively pursuing with the Russian authorities all the relevant cases of Indian nationals for an early discharge from the Russian army.

According to media reports, several Indians have been working as security helpers in the Russian military, and they were forced to even fight with Russian soldiers in certain areas along Russia’s border with Ukraine. “We have seen some inaccurate reports in the media regarding Indians with the Russian army seeking help for discharge,” the MEA said in a statement.

“Each and every such case brought to the attention of the Indian embassy in Moscow has been strongly taken up with the Russian authorities and those brought to the attention of the Ministry have been taken up with the

Whereabouts of TS youth unknown

HYDERABAD: Syed Sufiyan of Narayanpet is one among a few Indian youths, who are in the Russia-Ukraine war zone after being duped by agents in the guise of providing security guard jobs.

The family members of the 23-year-old say that Sufiyan has not communicated with them from Russia for over 20 days now. Sufiyan was working as a helper in the packing section at Dubai airport when he reportedly came in contact with Faizal Khan, an agent in Dubai, who allegedly promised Sufiyan a security guard job in Russia. In a statement, the national convener of the association, Nasir Khuehami, said that Azad Yusuf Kumar and several others have been ensnared in a fraudulent recruitment scheme, wherein they were deceived into travelling to Russia under false promises of job opportunities in cooking and cleaning.

It said one youth is trapped along the Russia-Ukraine border and another reportedly missing within Russia. In a statement, the national convener of the association, Nasir Khuehami, said that Azad Yusuf Kumar and several others have been ensnared in a fraudulent recruitment scheme, wherein they were deceived into travelling to Russia under false promises of job opportunities in cooking and cleaning.

Last week, MEA spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal said New Delhi was in touch with Moscow for early “discharge” of Indians working as support staff to the Russian Army and urged its nationals to stay away from the conflict zone in Ukraine. “We urge all Indian nationals to exercise due caution and stay away from this conflict,” he had said.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi had urged the Ministry to rescue the Indians. In a related development, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association said it wrote to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, seeking their intervention for repatriation of two youths “trapped” in Russia.

It said one youth is trapped along the Russia-Ukraine border and another reportedly missing within Russia. In a statement, the national convener of the association, Nasir Khuehami, said that Azad Yusuf Kumar and several others have been ensnared in a fraudulent recruitment scheme, wherein they were deceived into travelling to Russia under false promises of job opportunities in cooking and cleaning.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Arrest TMC leader, HC tells cops

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday directed the police to arrest TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh, accused of sexual atrocities and land grab in Sandeshkhali, following which the State’s ruling party said that it does not shield culprits and he would be arrested within seven days.

Pulling up the Mamata Banerjee government, a di-

Pulls up Mamata Banerjee government, says it was surprising to note that “it has taken four years for 42 cases” to mature into charge sheets

vision Bench presided by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam said it was surprising to note that “it has taken four years for 42 cases” to mature into charge sheets. The court directed

that Sheikh, the Enforcement Directorate, the CBI, the SP, and the State’s Home Secretary representing the West Bengal government be impleaded as parties in the suo motu matter initiated on

the allegations of sexual atrocities on women and the land grab of tribal people. “Therefore, the said person shall be arrested by the concerned police authorities,” the court directed. Welcoming the direction, the TMC claimed that previous orders of the court had tied the hands of the police in arresting him. Meanwhile, in Sandeshkhali, a TMC leader was arrested on the charge of land grabbing. PTI

Clear LRS applications: CM

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to expedite the processing of Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) 2020 applications and facilitate applicants to get the layouts

regularised before March 31 on payment of the full fee.

Instructions were issued to officials to regularise layouts other than those belonging to Endowments, Waqf, government and those covered under court directions. These decisions were taken during a meeting

at the Secretariat. The previous government had accepted LRS applications from August 31 to October 31, 2020. Around 25.44 lakh applications were submitted from all panchayats, municipalities and corporations in the State.

(REPORT PAGE 5)

Politician’s son among ten held with drugs

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Cyberabad SOT, along with local police, arrested ten persons on charges of drug consumption at a party in a star hotel in Gachibowli on Monday. Police seized three used plastic covers of cocaine, each cover containing one gram, and white papers used for usage of the drugs.

The arrested were identified as Gajjala Vivekanand (37), Director of the Manjeera Group of companies and son of a prominent politician, Syed Abbas Ali Jeffery, Nirbhay, Kedhar and six others. According to the police, on receiving information about the usage of drugs by Vivekanand with his friends, the police teams visited the hotel. On examination of the premises, the teams found three used plastic sachets of cocaine and other material.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Congress vows to scrap Agnipath

NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the union government over the ‘Agnipath’ military recruitment scheme, the Congress alleged that “gross injustice” was done to youngsters and asserted that it would revert to the old recruitment system if voted to power at the Centre.

The opposition party also demanded that appointments be given to the about

two lakh youngsters who had cleared the recruitment process but were not given joining letters as the “Agnipath” scheme was launched in 2022.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, highlighting the “gross injustice” done to the youngsters seeking regular employment in the armed forces due to the ‘Agnipath’ scheme. (SEE PAGE 2)

Group-I prelims on June 9

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The TSPSC will hold the Group-I services general recruitment preliminary test on June 9. A decision to this effect was taken by the TSPSC here on Monday.

Cancelling earlier notification for 503 vacancies, the commission recently issued a fresh one for 563 vacancies of the Group-I services. The registration for Group-I is currently underway and the deadline to register is March 14.

King of fruits arrives early in Hyd markets



Currently, Alphonso, Himayat, Benishan, and Rasal varieties are available in markets. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

RUCHI RAI SOHNI
Hyderabad

Summer is almost upon us, a bit earlier than expected this year! So is the king of fruits — mangoes — which has started to appear, albeit in limited stocks in markets of Hyderabad before the designated time.

With their irresistible aroma and juicy sweetness, mangoes have descended upon the markets of Hyderabad, signalling the start of a flavorful season, which will

peak post-Ugadi in April when the wholesale markets are flooded with Banganapalli.

Currently, four distinct varieties — Alphonso, Himayat, Benishan, and Rasal — are available in the markets. Moiz, owner of Star Fruit Centre at Banjara Hills, says, this is just the beginning. “We anticipate the arrival of additional varieties such as Kesar, Dasehri, Neelam, and Chausa in the coming days,” he shared, hinting at plenty of mango options for enthusiasts.

(SEE PAGE 2)